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EDITORIALS.

We shall be pleased to receive a catalogue from each of the schools and colleges where the MONTHLY is taken.

Charles De Medici, of New York City, writes, "Your magazine has certainly more merit than any other of the kind and ought to be well supported."

George W. Howe, Professor of Mathematics, State Normal School, Warrensburg, Mo., says, "The MONTHLY is a welcome visitor and I trust that you will continue it."

This number was delayed more than two weeks because of the failure of some proof reaching its destination. We feel confident that the March number will be mailed by the last of the month, and that thereafter the MONTHLY will appear regularly.

Cooper D. Schmitt, Professor of Mathematics, University of Tennessee, writes, "I enclose my subscription for the current year. I wish I had time to tell you how much I enjoy the MONTHLY and the good I get from it. It has caused me to study along certain lines that I had never before entered upon, and I feel that it does me an immense amount of good."

We are very thankful for the kind words that come from many of our contributors respecting the MONTHLY. That the work of getting out such a periodical every month is very arduous is not realized by all. That some errors creep into its pages is not surprising when every one thoroughly realizes the great work connected with the enterprise.

Professor E. P. Thompson, of Miama University, Oxford, Ohio, writes, "I send you with pleasure $2.00 for THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL MONTHLY for 1896. I get many a useful item, or point in discussion from it, and I hope you may prosper in the good work of putting into print the thoughts of the present workers in our beloved science."

Professor Thompson promises to contribute a paper on the "Mechanics of the Bicycle."

In *The Advance in Education* is an article, "A Class in Geometry under the Laboratory Plan," by Adelia R. Hornbrook, High School, Evansville, Ind. From this article we see that good practical use is made of the MONTHLY in the classroom. She says, "A group of boys, most of whom hope to go to the Polytechnic school, are working on a problem given them yesterday. They are much impressed with it, because it came out of the [*American*] *Mathematical Monthly*. They had never seen any mathematical publications except the text books, and the *Monthly*, with its intricate diagrams, mysterious figures, and unfamiliar terms was a revelation to them." There are thousands of teachers in our High

Schools that could most profitably follow the writer of the above article's plan. Not necessarily that the MONTHLY be used but that the teachers of mathematics carry the spirit of the great living subject into their classrooms. There is no better way to do this than for every teacher to take some good magazine especially devoted to his favorite study.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus with Examples and Practical Applications. By J. W. Nicholson, A. M., LL. D., President and Professor of Mathematics, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. 8vo. Cloth, 256 pp. New York and New Orleans: University Publishing Co.

We have long been expecting this unique work on the Calculus as Col. Nicholson apprised us more than a year ago that he was preparing a work on the subject which he expected would create a stir among mathematicians. In this, I think he will realize his expectation, as his work is a great departure from the long beaten path of the traditional Calculus. None of the metaphysical speculations of Newton, Leibinz, Carnot, D'Alembert, Berkeley, Duhamel, Cavalieri, Marquis de L'Hopital, etc., are met with, in reading this book. The idea is simply an extention of mathematical principles without assuming vague metaphysical propositions.

The chief distinctions of this treatise is that, (1) it is based on the conception of *Proportional Variations*, (2) the treatment of dx as a variable, (3) a rigorous deduction of simple tests of absolute convergency, without recourse to the remainder in Taylor's formula, (4) an extension of the ordinary rules for finding maxima and minima, (5) a chapter on Independent Integration, (6) integration by independent coefficients, (7) the introduction of *turns* in curve tracing, and (8) a new proof of Taylor's formula.

The treatment of dx as a variable is the only rational way of viewing dx as a quantity at all. We do not think that Col. Nicholson has wandered too far from the usual method of treating the subject and we are sure the beginner in Calculus will hail the work with joy.

It is time for the Calculus to be treated on sound mathematical principles and not those of metaphysics. We very gladly recommend this new work to the favorable consideration of teachers and students desiring a good text book on the Calculus. B. F. F.

The Science Absolute of Space. Independent of the truth or falsity of Euclid's Axiom XI (which can never be proved *a priori*). By John Bolyai. Translated from the Latin by Dr. George Bruce Halsted, President of the Texas Academy of Science. Fourth edition. Vol. three of the Neomonic Series. Published at the Neomon, 2407 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas. Cloth, 71 pp. Price, $1.00.

Dr. Halsted has just got out the fourth edition of his translation of Bolyai's "Science Absolute of Space." The work is enriched by many interesting particulars concerning the lives of the celebrated author of the Non-Euclidean Geometry, Bolyai Janos, and his father, Bolyai Farkas. This little work is worth a careful reading at least once a year.

B. F. F.